

York County Democratic Party News



February 2009

View from the Chair

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! This past election season restored my faith in the health of our representative democracy.

That oft-quoted resident of the Okefenokee Swamp, Pogo Possum hit the nail on the head when he said, "We have met the enemy and he is us." Often in our society, people complain about elections, but they don't become involved. This time around, many folks understood that rather than complaining, it was important to be engaged.

And, of course, the importance of engagement, matched up nicely with the message of President Obama (doesn't that sound wonderful?): Change will come from the bottom up.

So many of you were involved in this past election. Many thanks to those who ran for office. If we aren't on the playing field, how can we expect to win? I recently met with a number of our candidates. Some won; some lost. To a person, they told me that it was a good experience. What made it a good experience was all the new friends they had made. Many thanks to you who worked so hard for your candidates. There were fourteen different campaigns!

We will be resting a bit now, gathering our energy and resources. Elections are not unlike training runners. Alternation is a key. There are times of intense activity and times to re-energize and gather resources. However, the election cycle will soon begin again. Municipal elections will be held in the fall, and in 2010 the governorship, a US Senate seat, state house seats, and county council seats will be on the ballot.

The economic crisis has put our nation, state, and county in dire straights. Each day's headline is worse than that of the day before. Unemployment figures are staggering. Our infrastructure crumbles. Public education continues to be attacked. If ever we needed public

officials who understand the need for all of us to partner together to see ourselves through, it is now.

So, take a moment to bask in the glow of a new Presidency, but get ready to roll up your sleeves and dive back into the election process. Help us identify quality candidates. Help us build our party budget so that we can help those candidates. Participate in Party activities.

And again, thank you!

Clip and Save the Date!

Spring Forward 2009

May 15, 2009

6 until 9 PM

White Homestead
1042 Highway 160 W
Fort Mill, SC 29715

<http://www.fortmilltimes.com/history>

To sponsor or for more information,
email democrat@comporium.net
or call 803-324-3398

What are the YCDP Forums? (and why you should attend)

-Cherie Mabrey

With so many new readers, I thought I'd give you the background to all of our four of our Forums. It all began about twenty years ago. The Young Democrats executive board – Charles Bradford, Debby Mollycheck, Richard Mitchell, David Milstead, and I —met fairly regularly to plan events. We decided to start meeting on a regular basis but did not want to limit the meetings to just young folks. Marilyn Beach, Essie Starnes and Steve Million, party regulars, helped us get it started.

The first meetings of the Daytime Forum were held at Jackson's Cafeteria at their old location on Ebenezer Road. Eleven folks turned out for the first meeting. Over the next months, the decisions were made not to limit it to just young folks or just women, and the name chosen was "the Democratic Forum" (but I don't remember if the Charlotte Uptown Forum was named for our Forum or ours for theirs). Our numbers quickly rose to an average of about 25 attendees each month. We brought in speakers from around the state and became THE place for politicians to test their viability for office. Congressman Spratt always boosted our attendance to fifty or more when he spoke at our December meeting.

We have moved several times over the subsequent years, and meetings are now held at the Firebonz All American Grill on Cherry Road on the fourth Tuesday of (almost) every month at 12:30. Dee Camp is the moderator. Every Democrat is more than welcome to attend. The fellowship, discussion and information are invaluable. Please place it on your calendar and plan to attend. Dee may be contacted by calling 803-325-1556.

We began an Evening Forum to address the need to meet with other Rock Hill Democrats who work during the day and can't attend daytime meetings. These meetings were held on the third Thursday, but were suspended last year when the moderator had work obligations that prohibited her from continuing. If anyone is interested in reorganizing an evening forum, please let us know by emailing democrat@comporium.net or calling me at 324-3398.

We started a Western York Forum with good success, but after the moderator moved, it faded over a few months and was suspended. Several national and regional politicians visited and learned what people in western York were thinking. Forums

See "Forums," p. 7

The 2008 Presidential Election and My Own Place in History

-Hattie Ross

History has always been my favorite subject, next to math. I gave all my spare time working with the 2008 campaign because I realize that I have always been a part of History.

I can still see my mother and myself walking down the aisles of the 5 & 10-cent store. We would stand near the back entrance and eat our hot dog and soda before heading for the A&P grocery store on White Street. I personally knew the civil right leaders in our area. Rev. Ivey always found time to talk with young people. I remember Rev. Knox's heavy voice and Mr. Murdock. At that time, I thought Mr. Murdock was one of the most talkative men!

My best friend was one the first to integrate the Rock Hill School system. Later, I attended Friendship Jr. College, the same college that the Friendship Nine

attended. In fact, my mother and I walked with them on the sidewalk in front of the 5 & 10-cent store. I remember Winthrop College when only white girl students could attend. But guess what? I later attended Winthrop College.

This election was a part of me. I witnessed a door close on one era of history and a new door open to another. I realize nothing happens in vain. The Winthrop students—along with people like the Hilderbrands and many, many others—these people and I worked together to write a new page in history, and to help fulfill Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Dream, the dream that someday we would all be judged not by the color of our skin but by the content of our character.

We also proved with this election that there is no black nor red nor white, nor brown America. We *all* are the people of the United States of America.

"The Forums are what we (and I mean ALL York County Democrats) make them."



YCDP Members march at the Walk for the Vote Rally

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We're on the Web

See us at:
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com

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/

Faith and Politics: The Influence of God in our Government

—Douglas A. Wilson

For as long as the earth has been in existence, we have had many great countries and nations. From the days of the Romans, to the dynasty rule of Great Britain, we have seen the power of and influence of man over people. We have seen these great nations use their economic and military power to solidify their rule over the world. Although these countries have a rich history of power and success, no country in history of mankind has driven the entire world order like the United States of America.

The founding fathers of this country were driven to create a nation that would allow its people to have life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. They created a document that, according to many experts, is the greatest work of literature ever created behind the Holy Bible. This document was called and still is called the Constitution. Some may even argue that God inspired these men to write this document. However, did God indeed inspire them, or was it the hatred for England which burned deep in their soul drive them? In America today, there has been a great debate over whether or not Faith and Politics should work hand and hand. Since the beginning of George W Bush's [residency and the aftermath of 9/11, and now with President Barack Obama's Pastor, God has once more become very dominant in the political spectrum.

Many conservatives would argue that our elected officials should look to God for help and use their Christian Beliefs in their decision-making and the way they govern the country. Liberals believe that an elected official should not wear their faith on their selves. They believe an individual should not press their religious beliefs on others, and should practice separation of church and state. This argument has been going in America since the very beginning. The founders of America did not want to live the

same religious oppression that they experienced in Europe, they wanted to live free. Many of you may be asking yourself as you read this article, what do I believe? Well, here is my take on this matter. I believe that Faith and Politics has been a battle for the last 2000 years. If you go back to the time of Christ, he challenged the Jewish Political System at that time in Israel. The political system at that time believed that the resurrection did not exist and that certain religious acts should not take place on certain days. Faith and Politics increased more after Christ. The Holy Crusades were wars that were fought for political gain and religious influence.

During the days of the British Rule, the church was very influential in what the King or the Queen decided to do. The Catholic Church and the Pope was very powerful and directed the whole world. They also clashed with some of the British Kings such as King Henry VIII who fought with the Catholic Church over his view of marriage and other matters. With all this said, I believe that yes, an elected official should have a relationship with God but I also believe that the debate of faith and politics is nothing new. I also believe that President Obama should not be judged by his Pastor, he should be judged by his character. This battle defines our very existence as a democracy. If we could not debate this topic, everything we fought for over 250 years will die in vain. Faith should not divide us as a country but unite us as a country. Faith is the ability to believe in what we cannot see or feel. According to the bible, we cannot please God without faith. If this is the case then if we are divided as a country then we are not pleasing God.

I believe that where we are as a nation at this point in time as it pertains to faith has a lot to do with the War on Terror. Whether you agree with Iraq War or not, we are in the true

See "Faith," p. 4

"Faith" from p. 3

last crusade of our time. The War on Terror is more than just a fight of terrorism and ideology; it is a war between the human mind and the human spirit. Our mind guides us and our spirit defines us. If a human being believes in something strong enough, its spirit will engulf itself in that belief. Whether you support President Obama or not, if we start electing or not electing people based upon their church, we start to kill democracy slowly. In order for our country and our strong belief

in faith to endure the uncanny hands of time, we must begin to understand and each other. We must also not allow our difference blind us so much to the point that we become clouded with the spirits of confusion and complacency.

The Fort Mill Forum

The Fort Mill area now has a forum of their own where local Democrats can come together and discuss different issues that concern them. The Fort Mill Forum will gather on the first Thursday evening of each month at a Fort Mill Restaurant. The Menu will vary from month to month but is priced around \$8-\$29 for entrees and appetizers.

Some of the guests that we are working to have are the Honorable Rep. John R. King (State House District 45) and Rep. John Spratt. (U.S. House of Rep. S.C. District 5)

I would like this to be a place where we can come together and continue the momentum that we put forth and gained in the campaign for change. This not only

—Chris Ogden

was a historic election for having elected the first African-American president but also for how many citizens became politically involved because of Barack Obama. I would like this forum to be a springboard for the party to help get your local issues heard and to help get President Obama's agenda passed. Furthermore it should be a place for local candidates to get the education, training, and support that they will need once they embark on their political careers.

For more information on the Fort Mill Forum please contact me or Cherie Mabrey at

FortMillForum@yorkdems.com
or (561) 568-7298



The Fort Mill Forum

*This forum will be a springboard for the party to help get **your** local issues heard.*



Democratic Women of Greater Lake Wylie

Clover High School Private Dining Room
1625 Hwy. 55 East, Clover, SC 29710
When: Friday, February 13, 11:30AM
Phone: 803-631-5360

There will be a speaker, and lunch will be prepared and served by the Clover High School Culinary Arts Department. Come help us celebrate the Inauguration of President Barack Obama! All are welcome.

RSVP by February 4th. Your check is your reservation. Send check for \$8, payable to DWLW to:

Meg Wyatt
5580 Beaver Creek Trl,
Lake Wylie, SC 29710

Not from Around Here: The Newcomer's Point of View

—Andy Pagoota

You've probably heard most of your life as I have that change is inevitable, except from a vending machine. You know, for a long time I actually didn't believe that. These days however I find myself believing that if anything was ever inevitable it is indeed change. From every grassroots corner in these United States people of all races creeds and colors came together and we stood together for what we know to be right. We actually saw people who may never have otherwise spoken to each other had they passed on the streets come together in unity and elect a president who will change this country for the better.

What we've seen happen during the 2008 campaign is merely the beginning of what is to come. We have only begun to see this country go in that direction that is right for the American people. It is my firm belief that in order for the Democratic Party to continue to achieve our goals we must continue to stick together, we must remain united. We have to extend a helping hand to every grassroots effort, which seeks to make America a better place in which to live. There is no doubt whatsoever in my mind that we as democrats can do anything we set our hearts and minds to.

And although there are those of us (or those of you) who have given all we have been able to give, I feel like there's just a bit more that were able to get. Not only at election time, but also during the entire year. Those of us who consider ourselves "Loyal Democrats", are able to give something in one form or another each month all year long.

What we must all remember what we need to do is stand together not as just Democrats but as people who stand for the same beliefs regardless of whether we are white, black, Asian or any other race creed or color. We stood together during the election of President Barack Obama, why can't we continue to stand together during future democratic elections? As democrats in York County South Carolina, presidential elections are not just teams that certain things stand

for. We stand for everything the Democratic Party stands for, not just here in York County but in every county in our great state of South Carolina.

We made a stand in South Carolina and all across America during this election that told the American people, "THIS COUNTRY NEEDS CHANGE"! Not only did we make that statement to our own local Democrats, we succeeded that in conveying that statement to the majority of the American people. If we as a party in one Small County in South Carolina can convey these points to all of America, why can't we continue to do so for as long as it is necessary to bring the United States of America back to where we know that it should be? I believe we can do it, and I hope that you do to.

Enough about banding everyone together at least right now. Let's talk about what I have seen with my own eyes over the past month or so on YDCP.com. Particularly the site for "The Yellow Dog Journal"? In my little mind this is such a wonderful place for those of us who are Democrats in York County South Carolina to convey what we feel that we as York County Democrats should vote for, vote against, not renegotiate or do whatever we see necessary to make York County South Carolina a better place to live.

You see, kids, I am a new person here. So perhaps I don't know about everything that goes on in York County, but I am aware of a thing or two that happens here and I'm also aware that we have far more people who consider themselves Democrats than what I can see who actually pay attention to and participate in the "Democratic Process here in our beloved York County". Friends, elections happen a bit more frequently than every four years here in York County. As a new resident of York County (I've only been here for two years), I personally can see things going

You are invited to become a more active member of the York County Democratic Party

—Pat Calkins

The York County Democratic Party (YCDP) needs you. It needs your ideas, your energy and your time to formulate and implement policies to expand the membership and outreach of the party. Will you help by joining one or more of the six committees recently created by the Executive Committee.

The **Finances/Budget Committee** will work with the Treasurer, Joyce Knott, to monitor the expenditure of funds from the YCDP treasury, to approve major expenditures, and to plan and make recommendations to the Executive Committee for the Budget for the 2009 year.

The **Fund Raising Committee** will work to assist Cherie Mabrey to raise money to support the ongoing activities of the YCDP. This committee also works with the Finances/Budget Committee to set goals for fund raising.

The **Mailings Committee** members work with Barbara Kurz, our Secretary, to plan, edit and prepare mailings for the YCDP and to monitor the use of the bulk-mailing permit. This committee also works with the Communications/ Database committee prepare mailing labels and with the Finances/Budget Committee to request funds for stationary, envelopes,

stamps and bulk mailing charges.

The **Communications/Database Committee** works with Pat Calkins to maintain the YCDP database, to use database reports to measure the effectiveness of our strategic initiatives, to operate the phone tree and to monitor the use of the VoteBuilder database of Registered Voters.

The **Membership/Volunteers Committee** members work to recruit and identify new members and to help them become active in party work. This committee plans the training for YCDP members. It also works with the Communications/Database committee to collect accurate names, addresses and emails for all active party members.

The **Regional Representatives Committee** members are active members of the party who establish active groups within their community (i.e., Fort Mill, Rock Hill and York). These groups are asked to select a representative to give their input on party business to the YCDP Executive Committee.

Contact Cherie Mabrey at 324-3398 or itmabrey@comporium.net if you have questions or if you want to add your name to a committee.

York City Dem Forum

—Elisa Ashley

York City Dems is a free forum that meets in the heart of York the first Thursday of every month, excluding holidays. This is an open forum, and all are welcome, regardless of political experience. Even those who are just curious are welcome. The forum meets from 6:30-7:30 in the conference room of the York Library on 21 E. Liberty St. The forum program begins with an opening prayer and the

Pledge of Allegiance. This is followed with a presentation of information, varying in topic. The floor is then opened for discussion of the topics covered that night or other political items as arise from within the group.

The forum's goals are to establish social, communication, and service networks to promote and assist the Democratic Party in the city of York and

See "York City Forum," p. 7

THE NEXT YDCP MEETING WILL BE TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 17, AT 6:00 PM AT THE PARTY HEADQUARTERS

THE NEXT YDCP EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING WILL BE TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 17, AT 6:00 PM AT THE PARTY HEADQUARTERS

"Newcomer" from p. 5

much farther than what I have seen in the past two years. It takes nothing more than greater participation from those fellow Democrats in York County who we all love to call our friends. We elected the president who we feel will meet our needs over the next four years (quite possibly the next eight years) and we want to see our state as well as the United States of America go much farther than anything we could ever possibly imagine. The only thing we need is help from you, our fellow citizens of York County South Carolina. As a fellow South Carolinian and as a fellow resident of York County, won't you join us in making sure that America is a better place to live for all those we know and see every day on the streets of our cities and County?

All you have to do is a citizen of York County is say yes, you agree with what

we believe as York County Democrats. Furthermore all you have to do is visit the website space WWW.YCDP.COM and you will have all the information you need to fellow York County Democrats space make your home here in York County space a better place to live.

As a Democrat who has only lived in York County for two years, space I ask you to help me to make York County South Carolina a better place to live and to raise a family. We have to do this together. As large as our county is, there is no one who is able to do this by himself or herself. Join me and I'll be ever so grateful to you and to those who have asked you to join me. I'm really easy to find at apagoota@comporium.net. Talk to me; I need you!

In hopes that we all have the best new year ever!

"York City Forum" from p. 6

surrounding areas. A Democrat in this region could feel isolated, and we want Democrats to know that there are many of us out here. We'd like to meet each other, inform each other, and support each other. We are a diverse group and would benefit from interaction with each other. At this time, we are not planning any fundraisers, but remain open to the possibility. First and foremost, we want to connect people.

If you have questions, ideas, or suggestions for topics, please contact Elisa Renae or Keith Ashley at yorkcitydems@yahoo.com or 803-412-6421.

"Forums" from p. 2

take a great deal of work on the part of the moderators and other volunteers but the rewards are good friendships, more educated electors and recognition from the state and regional leaders. YCDP has good lists, several ways to contact Democrats and connections to great speakers, trainers and such but it takes several hours a month to bring everything and

everyone together. Thankfully, during this past election season, Elisa Renae and Keith Ashley started the York City Forum to replace it. We meet at the York Library on Liberty Street in York on the first Thursday evening at 6:30 PM. Contact them at 803-412-6421 or yorkcitydems@yahoo.com.

I'll let Chris Ogden, our newest moderator, tell you about the Fort Mill Forum in a separate article. This Forum is also held on the first Thursday of each month but at 7 PM. It meets at a restaurant between Fort Mill and Tega Cay. In its inaugural meeting, around fifty people attended to hear SCDP Executive Director Jay Parmley speak about the state of the Party. The discussion over the next months will determine the direction of this Forum.

All the Forums offer several opportunities to learn, to share and to meet like-minded citizens. The Forums are what we (and I mean ALL York County Democrats) make them. Consider joining us at one (or all) the Forums to help make them what they need to be. The money raised at each Forum is kept separately to fund mailings, etc. to the area that it serves.

Celebrating the Inauguration in York County

—Mary Keenan

On January 20, starting at 10:00am, friends began to get together to watch on television the joyous event of Barack Hussein Obama's inauguration as President of the United States. We were the Democrats "left behind"—the ones who could not make it to Washington D.C. Several of us thought we should celebrate this together rather than in the isolation of our own living rooms. Just to make it cozier, that morning it snowed in Rock Hill.

But snow did not stop the gatherers. Jim Watkins' recent hip replacement did not stop him from hobbling up the brick steps to the front door. Almost twenty Democrats arrived at Mary Keenan's house bearing salads, homemade bread, snacks, and deserts. Mary made soup. Yet no one—and these are EATERS—even munched a peanut until after the President's speech, when we watched the assembly depart the Whitehouse steps. We were spellbound for two hours. Our young Yellow Dog Jonah tended a crawling baby

from Charlotte—yes, three generations dared icy roads to arrive from afar

This was primitive TV, folks. No 21-inch set. Didn't matter. And the streaming video in the next room, though large enough was—well, in the next room. Not cozy. Not with friends who had knocked on doors 'til the knuckles were raw, called on cells 'til the ear was sore, written to newspapers, set up signs, distributed pamphlets, buttons, bumper stickers; gone to endless rallies and fundraisers and meetings.

Were we a little paranoid when John Roberts failed to dictate the correct swearing-in oath? Were we delighted at the nerve of Aretha Franklin in that wonderful southern hat? Mixed emotions, perhaps, but one thing I know we all agreed on: The inauguration speech given by Barack Hussein Obama fulfilled our dreams and rewarded all our hard work.

Then it was done, he was our President, and we ate.

Inauguration Memories

—Linda Dyer Hart

Words will never express the experience of being there to see Barack Obama sworn in as our 44th President. How wonderful it sounds to say the words "President Obama."

A friend of mine flew up from Palm Beach to Charlotte and we drove up and stayed at my daughter Deirdre's apartment in D.C. with 8 other people. I think we had an hour of sleep because everyone was up all night talking. Several went over to the mall at 4:00 AM. I went at 6:00 AM as Deirdre lives on Massachusetts Ave. near the tunnel to 395.

We all had Silver tickets to the Inauguration. Most of our tickets came from Senator Dodd. I'm originally from Connecticut and we were also fortunate to have tickets from Congressman Spratt. The entire experience was euphoric and to see so many people helping one another and just being incredibly happy to be there was something to take in slowly and dream about! To look at a crowd of 2 million people on the Mall was

something that felt like I had left this planet and had entered another world, somehow floating above it and seeing humanity at its best. After a long campaign the dream had come to fruition. Obama did it!! When Barack Obama first announced his Presidency back in 2007 (seems like a million years ago), I called his Senate office in D.C and said sign me up, I'll do whatever is needed. Barack Obama has come at a time when there is so much hatred in the world and such a need for a man like him that it feels like destiny or fate that he is President at this time and place in history. It's also wonderful to see the leaders and citizens of other countries so excited about his Presidency. I had been to Clinton's Inauguration in 1992 with my son who was 16 at the time so it was wonderful that I was able to experience Presiden Obama's Inauguration with my daughter, Deirdre.

I will always remember where I was on Jan. 20, 2009!!!

Please send items for
newsletter to
rudolph@comporium.net
Deadline 25th of each
month for inclusion in
next month's newsletter.

York County Democrats in Pictures



Party Members at the Forum

Photo courtesy Chris Ogden



Leland Graham working for John Spratt

Photo courtesy Joyce Knott

Mark Your Calendar

YCDP Forum Firebonz All-American Grill	4th Tuesday each month, 12:30 PM
York City Dem Forum York Library	1 st Thursday each month, 6:30 PM
Fort Mill Forum Fort Mill Restaurant	1 st Thursday evening each month
Democratic Women of Lake Wylie Clover High School	February 13, 2009 11:30 AM
Spring Forward 2009	May 15, 2009

Please send any items for calendar to Diane Rudolph – rudolph@comporium.net
Deadline: 23rd of each month for inclusion in next month's issue



The Convention in Denver

Photo courtesy Cherie Mabrey

Images from the Inauguration



Photo courtesy Alex Mabrey



Photo courtesy Alex Mabrey

The York County Democratic Party

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Send newsletter contributions to rudolph@comporium.net by 23rd of month for inclusion in next newsletter.

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